States and Union Territories have been asked by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to create a special cell in the police headquarters for effective enforcement of copyright laws as also to identify nodal officers in their administration to facilitate proper co-ordination between industry organizations and the enforcement agencies.

Ban on Import of SSI Items

†1718. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed ban on the import of items falling under the gamut of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps to be taken by Government to bring the small scale industries out of this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) India has removed all quantitative restrictions being maintained earlier on balance of payment grounds as part of economic liberalization policy under implementation since 1991 and as part of international commitments. There is therefore no ban on import of any items reserved for small scale industries.

However, Government has put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization. A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs had been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan up to Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Private participation in defence production

1719. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to dereserve defence production and open it to the private participation through licensing;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.